

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2003
www.sarbanes.house.gov

December 1, 2015

Dr. Kathryn Matthew
Director
Institute of Museum and Library Services
1800 M Street NW, Floor 9
Washington, DC 20036-5855

Dear Dr. Matthew:

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposal submitted to Institute of Museum and Library Services' Museums for America program by the B&O Railroad Museum. This grant funding will be utilized to restore a historically important piece of their diesel locomotive collection.

Over the past ten years the B&O Railroad Museum has successfully restored several major engines that were nearly lost when the museum's roundhouse roof collapsed. The B&O Railroad Museum will use grant funding to restore the B&O #51 locomotive. The B&O #51 was the first streamlined diesel locomotive ever put into service. This locomotive represents a major shift in technology when diesel power became a reliable alternative to steam locomotives. The historical significance of this piece makes it critical that it be restored and placed on display.

The B&O Railroad Museum has continued to grow as a museum and a cultural resource. The B&O Railroad Museum brings hundreds of thousands of visitors to Baltimore from around the country. The restoration of the B&O #51 will be an extremely important project that allows the museum to protect a unique industrial artifact. During the restoration the museum will conduct regular tours that will draw visitors by allowing guests to see the restoration in process. In doing this, the museum will continue to grow and serve its community.

I ask that you give all appropriate consideration to the application of the B&O Museum to the Institute of Museum and Library Services' Museums for American grant program.

Sincerely,



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

December 1, 2015

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John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

JPS/jl

Abstract: Restoration of the B&O #51—The First Streamlined Diesel

The B&O Railroad Museum is requesting Museums for America support in the Collections Stewardship category for a project focused on the B&O #51 locomotive. We are seeking grant that would allow the museum's experienced restoration staff to focus on, and complete this project in a one year period. Over the last ten years the B&O Railroad Museum has successfully restored 8 major engines that were nearly lost when the museum's roundhouse collapsed under the weight of several feet of snow. This will be our first post-recovery restoration. In addition, this project works towards several points of the museum's five year plan. The B&O #51 is central to our most important collection and is the museum's greatest conservation priority. This project is directly pursuant of the museum's mission—*"the preservation of the physical legacy and experience of American Railroading."*

The B&O #51 was the first streamlined diesel ever put into service. It represents a major shift in technology...the point where diesel power began to assert itself as a viable and reliable alternative to the steam locomotives that had dominated the first century of railroading in America. Previous diesels had mostly been boxy, low powered yard switchers that were reliable, but by no means large or strong enough to serve as a realistic threat to the dominance steam locomotives held on American railways. The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad was the first American railroad to adopt diesel-electric locomotives for passenger train service. This locomotive is the first of a design that has impacted every diesel built in the last 70 years. The units were a radical change from what railroads and the public were accustomed to. However, ultimately, they proved to be quite successful. The EAs remained in use on the B&O for many years before being retired and today, one remains preserved, B&O #51 at the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum in Baltimore. After nearly 40 years of being exposed to the elements and vandalism, the #51 was moved indoors in 2005. The engine needs lead and asbestos abatement, replacement of shot-out glass pieces, and significant work on deteriorating exterior steel and aluminum components. Once these steps are completed, we will return the B&O #51 to its original paint scheme.

This project will led by the B&O's Executive Director, managed and guided by the Chief Curator, and engaged by a crew of four highly experienced restorationists and a corps of 10 trained and experienced volunteers. Ultimately, the goal of this project is to return the B&O #51 to its place in the Museum's North Passenger Carshop, where it serves as a key component of the most important collection of early American diesel locomotives in the world and a cornerstone of a major exhibit focused on the operation and evolution of diesel locomotives.

During the restoration, the museum will conduct regular tours that will allow guests to see the restoration in process. In addition, we will provide regular progress updates to museum patrons via email. We will also document the process and make the results of the restoration available through a report that chronicles the entire endeavor. Public benefits include the preservation of this historically significant locomotive which will be returned to the Roundhouse, opportunities to observe the work in our Restoration Shop, and access to a report that can serve as guiding framework to other restoration efforts focused on railroad equipment or other large, industrial artifacts. This project is the highest collections treatment priority of the B&O Railroad Museum.

Letts, Joe

From: Smith, Brigid
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 7:22 PM
To: Lovinger, Dvora; Letts, Joe; Gleason, Jason
Subject: RE: letter of support for the B&O Railroad Museum

And me too.

From: Lovinger, Dvora
Sent: Monday, November 30, 2015 10:20 AM
To: Letts, Joe; Gleason, Jason; Smith, Brigid
Subject: RE: letter of support for the B&O Railroad Museum

Looks good to me

From: Letts, Joe
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 5:04 PM
To: Gleason, Jason; Smith, Brigid; Lovinger, Dvora
Subject: RE: letter of support for the B&O Railroad Museum

Draft:

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposal submitted to Institute of Museum and Library Services' Museums for America program by the B&O Railroad Museum. This grant funding will be utilized to restore a historically important piece of their diesel locomotive collection.

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The B&O Railroad Museum has continued to grow as a museum and a cultural resource. The B&O Railroad Museum brings hundreds of thousands of visitors to Baltimore from around the country. The restoration of the B&O #51 will be an extremely important project that allows the museum to protect a unique industrial artifact. During the restoration the museum will conduct regular tours that will draw visitors by allowing guests to see the restoration in process. In doing this, the museum will continue to grow and serve its community.

I ask that you give all appropriate consideration to the application of the B&O Museum to the Institute of Museum and Library Services' Museums for American grant program.

From: Gleason, Jason
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2015 9:19 AM
To: Smith, Brigid; Letts, Joe; Lovinger, Dvora
Subject: RE: letter of support for the B&O Railroad Museum

OK

From: Smith, Brigid
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 4:28 PM
To: Letts, Joe; Gleason, Jason; Lovinger, Dvora
Subject: RE: letter of support for the B&O Railroad Museum

Recommend very strong support 😊.

From: Letts, Joe
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 3:45 PM
To: Gleason, Jason; Lovinger, Dvora
Cc: Smith, Brigid
Subject: FW: letter of support for the B&O Railroad Museum

I received this request from the B&O Railroad Museum for a letter of support for their grant application to the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

From: James Smolinski [<mailto:jmolinski@borail.org>]
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 1:55 PM
To: Letts, Joe
Subject: letter of support for the B&O Railroad Museum

Dear Congressman Sarbanes:

Thank you for taking the time to come to the B&O Railroad Museum for the return of the B&O #600 locomotive the JC Davis.

We are currently working on a grant proposal for the Institute of Museum and Library Services. We are seeking to restore the B&O #51 locomotive—the first streamlined diesel ever produced.

I have attached an abstract of the project to provide a deeper sense of this endeavor.

It would be extremely helpful if you could provide a letter of support for this project.

Below I have attached a draft of the letter of support I need for the museum's IMLS application.

If possible, could you send me the letter as a pdf document?

My email is jmolinski@borail.org

Thank you for your consideration

Here is the draft:

++++++

November 19, 2015

Kathryn K. Matthew
Director
Institute of Museum and Library Services

1800 M Street NW
9th Floor
Washington, DC 20036-5802

Dear Ms. Matthew:

This is to express my support for the B&O Railroad Museum's application for a grant through the Institute of Museum and Library Services' Museums for America program to restore the B&O #51 locomotive. The B&O #51 was the first streamlined diesel ever put into service. It represents the major shift in technology when diesel power began to assert itself as a viable and reliable alternative to the steam locomotives that had dominated the first century of railroading in America.

The B&O Railroad Museum brings hundreds of thousands of visitors here from around the country. This is important to my district, which is a Maryland Revitalization Area, a Targeted Investment Zone, and an Empowerment Zone, as well as part of the Baltimore National Heritage Area. The restoration of the B&O #51 is an important opportunity to restore and preserve an industrial treasure. In addition, during the restoration, the museum will conduct regular tours that will draw visitors by allowing guests to see the restoration in process.

Over the last decade the B&O has grown as a museum and a cultural resource. Its collection of American railroading equals or exceeds any other institution in the world. The restoration of the B&O #51 will be an extremely important project that allows the museum to protect a unique industrial artifact. In doing this, the museum will continue to grow its abilities as well as its audience.

Thank you for considering this important request for funding.

Sincerely,